

W9/L2/6 (30) 10f2

Hobart. 18th Oct 1891
Sunday night.

Dearest Doo,

No one else is writing to you and it is very late so that I fear you will get very scurvy measure this mail. We have no further letter from you; the mail will not be in until Wednesday.

There is not much to add about Robert & the children. Katie was in here to day, and she & Sean come in pretty frequently. Robert is not very well, but has a great deal of work on his hands which is perhaps well for him mentally if not physically. I hope he will go away for a while shortly. W Benjaminfield

Made a slight examination of poor Lizzie. He found 50 or 60 gallstones in the bile ducts & gall, and her liver was organically changed. He told me that no medicine & no operation could possibly have done her any good. No power on earth could have saved her. Elsie has come out wonderfully during all this trouble. She has shown great strength of character & much quiet tact. She has ~~many~~ much of her mother in her, & does not inherit Bob's impetuosity like some of the others. I think she & Kathie are a good deal alike.

All this week has been absorbed by the Australian Squadron. The Orlando, 4 large cruisers & 2 gunboats all bearing Australian names. The Tasmanian name is the

'Ringarooma'; N.S.W. 'Nalborumba'
Tict, 'Mildura'; S.A. 'Mallaroo';
V.A. 'Karrakatta', and another
is called the "Boomerang".

It was a pretty sight to see
them anchor off Battery Point.
I went ~~up~~ onto the old Mulgrave
Battery rampart & had a good
view of them coming to anchor
& of the landing of the Admiral.
I have not troubled about them
since, though there was a holiday
on Wednesday, & sports on the
Cricket Ground. Of course, Alex
Morton was prominent as one
of the Secretaries of the Reception
Committee. The Club has been
full of officers & the town of
sailors all the week. Govt Ho
gave an evening (no dancing)
& the Hon P.O. & a dance at
his house last night. He didn't
go to either - we were not asked
to P.O.'s. The ships came on Monday

and go away tomorrow. The
Australian Colonies pay 5 per cent
interest on their cost, & all the
expense of maintenance. I believe
Tasmania's share is £5000 a year.
They are quite new type of boats,
very different from the old three-
masted we have been accustomed
to. They are low in the water,
and have only two small
masts without yards - & don't
look at all like one's idea of
a man of war.

Everything is dull here.
Mr H K Fyfe has had twins.
Poor old Mrs Gee, of New Town -
you remember I used to borrow
old Gazettes from her -
died on Friday. She was
buried to day & I went to
the funeral. She was born in
Hobart in 1812, & remembered
old St Davids before it was
finished.

on Thursday afternoon
I went out to Hughes', at

7/ W9/12/6 (307) 20f2

Bridgewater, and stayed until Friday afternoon - employing part of the time in kite flying, as there was a strong wind. The Hughes intend going home about February, in the 'Droya' I think.

We have had quite a wintry week, rain & southerly gale. Snow nearly to the bottom of the Mountain, and even a snow shower in town. Quite back to winter again. The rain will do a lot of good but it has been too wintry to be pleasant for the time of year.

We are all well, except that Isa has one of her Scraping coughs. I asked the Mother to night what message to send. She said Give her my very dear love, & praise her for writing so

regularly; then she added
"I wish we could have her
back again; but it is no
use her coming before she has
got the instruction she wants.
She must see as much as she
can, now she is away &
has the chance. She seems
fairly well, and talked to
me for some time about the
different Bessons, saying
that you must try to see all
her relations before you come
back. She means all the
older generation, I imagine.

There is nothing new to
report of Aunt Ann.

Sarah has I think given up
the idea of doing anything
about Miss Garrett's School. Recd
She thinks it would be too
big a risk, & probably not
profitable as she would
have to pay a big rent &

pay teachers &c. Miss Garretts
were so successful because
Miss Gellibrand supplied
the house, & they did all the
teaching - such as it was -
amongst themselves.

If Sah could have got
some pretty strong minded
woman, with some money,
to have joined with her
as partner, it might have done.
But I think she is wise not
to go at it by herself.

We are anxious to know
about your Paris arrangements,
and to get some sketches.

Jenny Crompton was here
on Friday evening. She is
down here about an equity
suit, which the late Mr
Nicholas's brother is bringing
about the property. She is

a witness. The general idea
is that the suit has been
got up by Henry Dobson,
& that it does not reflect
much credit on him.
It has been on 10 days &
seems not to be half through.
The Mr Nicholas has a
barrister from Melbourne, who
gets £400 on his brief, and
£40 a day besides.

It is one o'clock, so
good night, beloved, and
God bless you.

Kindest remembrances
to everybody. // Affectionately
Yrs.

Jenny Crompton is a cousin
of Miss Lascelles, I think. She
has her youngest girl with her,
a nice little thing.